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## Message from the Mayor

Last week, US Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Cornyn and George Allen introduced legislation to repeal the District of Columbia's gun ban—a ban that our local leaders devised and support with vigor. I am happy that local leaders, including Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, joined me in reacting quickly to the Senators' outrageous proposal.

I am incensed by any Congressional proposal that uses District residents as pawns. I am also incensed by any proposal that assaults Home Rule. And I am incensed by any proposal that insults the memory of the people who have died in this city because of gun violence—in particular the three children who have died from gun violence so far this year.

We're on the right track toward reducing crime in the District. We're working to get guns off the street, and we're doing that successfully. Our efforts are having an impact—homicides are down 17 percent from last year and that follows a 20 percent reduction in homicides from the previous year.

So far this year, the Metropolitan Police Department has recovered more than 1,000 firearms from the streets of the District of Columbia—a 23 percent increase over the number confiscated at this time last year. If members of Congress wish to contribute to public safety in the District, they should support the public safety priorities we have continually articulated during hearings on the Hill.

The *District of Columbia Personal Protection Act of 2005* is an attack on home rule. It's a vicious attack on representative democracy for District of Columbia residents. Like the other 50 states, the District knows what firearm regulations work best for its residents.

Senator Hutchison claims that it's her "constitutional responsibility to oversee the District of Columbia." Indeed, Congressional oversight of the District remains in some fashion. But I firmly believe we can propose, pass and maintain our own laws—without interference from Congress. We don't need handguns in the District.

The bottom line is that for members of the Senate or the House to impose their will on the District is not just anti-democratic. It is the ultimate hypocrisy. I implore Congress to take no further action on the *District of Columbia Personal Protection Act of 2005*.



Office of Tax and  
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Employment Services

Metropolitan Police  
Department

Office of Boards and  
Commissions

Commission on the Arts  
and Humanities

Department of Human  
Services

## LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and  
Tourism

DC Public Library

# Gallery Place Retail Opening

On Wednesday, May 18, I joined a host of city leaders at a news conference with developers and new retailers at downtown's Gallery Place to discuss progress in this burgeoning neighborhood. Gallery Place is the cornerstone of Penn Quarter and a vital part of our city's effort to create a vibrant downtown with business, retail, housing and entertainment venues.

Among the participants were chef Richard Sandoval, who is bringing the new Modern Mexico restaurant, Zengo, to Gallery Place. Representatives from the Aveda Institute introduced their salon, spa, and school for hairstylists and spa technicians; a manager from Clyde's was on hand to celebrate the restaurant's newest location in Washington; a representative from Bed, Bath and Beyond discussed the chain's first foray into the District; and, Lucky Strike, the bowling/dining concept from Los Angeles, was introduced to the Washington area.



In honor of the occasion, an Aveda representative presented me with a fragrance created exclusively for me called "Beau-Tie." "Beau-Tie" is made with patchouli, jasmine and citrus essential oils.

Just imagine: Six years ago, when I first took office as Mayor, Gallery Place was an entirely different place. What a difference a few years and a lot of teamwork make.

Today, Gallery Place is a living, breathing, economic engine of jobs, commerce and activity—all in a transit friendly urban city center that's growing by leaps and bounds. In what was once an urban wasteland we now see the neon lights of restaurants and shops, and soft lights beaming from condos.

Foot traffic in the area looks more like Manhattan than what we once thought of as Washington, DC. Thanks to development around the MCI Center, thousands of people have jobs—and millions of dollars in tax revenue flow toward key city services.

Just think about all the new development coming to this neighborhood:

- Two weeks ago I helped open the new Woolly Mammoth Theatre.
- We've got the National Portrait Gallery reopening next year.
- A new Shakespeare Theatre is in the works.
- And the Newseum development is going on nearby.

Last week, I helped celebrate the terrific and exciting new retail coming to Gallery Place. This development alone is helping create hundreds of new jobs in our city.

## Employee Profile: Kisok Roh

When you see Kisok Roh huddled over a table guiding a prospective small business owner through a license application, you realize you're watching a very special kind of customer and community service in action. As a liaison to the Asian and Pacific American community from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Basic Business License program, Kisok provides critical services to the Asian and Pacific Islander business community, translating materials from English to Korean. He goes the extra mile to ensure that language is never a barrier to anyone who needs to obtain a business license in the District.

In recognition of his effective and extraordinary commitment to his work, the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) presented Kisok with a the agency's Community Service Award—making him the only District employee to receive the honor.



Kisok has been with DCRA serving the Asian and Pacific American community since 2002. Before he joined the District government, he spent eight years living and working just outside of Paris, France, studying psychology and doing graduate work in economics at Paris-Dauphine University and the Sorbonne. Kisok has undergraduate degrees in education and economics from the University of Seoul, Korea.

When Kisok isn't working, he enjoys reading and traveling with his wife Hee-soo. He has traveled all over Europe and Asia and is now exploring America, which he says is "a very big country with much to see."



## City Begins East Washington Traffic Relief Program

On May 16, I joined the Director of Transportation, Dan Tangherlini, at an event to inform the public about our new plan to relieve congestion east of the Anacostia River.

The East Washington Traffic Relief Program calls for building new ramps on the 11th Street Bridge in Anacostia to allow traffic to flow between the Southeast Freeway and northbound Kenilworth Avenue/I-295 and relieve congestion on Pennsylvania Avenue and the Sousa Bridge in Southeast.

Consistently, there is heavy traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue east of the Anacostia River. In fact, the foot of the Sousa-Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge is a major bottleneck in our transportation system. This bottleneck creates huge problems for residents in East Washington—as well as others—who travel along Pennsylvania Avenue and on other streets on both sides of the Anacostia.

More than 90,000 vehicles use the Sousa Bridge every weekday, and our goal is to ensure a free flow of that traffic. At the event, I was pleased to announce that the East Washington Traffic Relief Project will relieve traffic congestion on the Sousa Bridge.

It will do so by diverting traffic congestion from local streets to the interstate-regional network. We will improve freeway connections east of the 11th Street bridges. That will help us create a revitalization of downtown Anacostia and MLK Jr. Avenue—while creating traffic relief on local streets on both sides of the Anacostia.

Meanwhile, by separating local from regional traffic, we will return MLK to a two-way street with curbside parking. That means increased support for the business corridor and the return of MLK Jr. Avenue to a "local downtown Main Street"—serving local residents and businesses.

Our new effort will also take pressure off neighborhood streets like Constitution and Independence Avenues, and 17th Street, SE.

Other local roads will also see reduced traffic. I am proud that DDOT has worked with the community and Councilmembers in developing this plan.

## Fort Greble Ball Field Renovation

On May 17, I was pleased to officially open the renovated ball fields at historic Fort Greble Park in Ward 8—the first ball fields to be refurbished as a result of a partnership among the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission, the Washington Nationals and Major League Baseball.

During the protracted debate about the return of Major League Baseball to the District, there was a lot of discussion about the condition of community ball fields. The DC Sports and Entertainment Commission responded by leading an effort to refurbish as many of our city's fields as possible.

The Fort Greble project involved the demolition of the old fields, installation of new turf for a baseball diamond and multi-purpose football/soccer field, new scoreboard and new dugouts. The Major League Baseball Players Association's Baseball Tomorrow Fund donated \$100,000 toward the \$400,000 renovation. Our city's Sports Commission provided the bulk of the project's funding.



The return of the national pastime to America's hometown is about more than baseball. It's about jobs. It's about community. It's about people talking to each other on the Metro or at coffee shops about the new team.

It's about bringing a major corporation to the District of Columbia—and spreading its benefits across our city. And, yes, it's about working in partnership to create new opportunities for our young people. I see the renovation of Fort Greble as a first step in what I hope will be a long and enduring partnership among the city, the Washington Nationals and Major League Baseball.

The improvements at Fort Greble are the first of field improvements we're making across our city at Fort Reno, the Palisades, Shepherd Playground, Kenilworth Parkside and Benning Terrace.

The bottom line is that baseball is here to stay. That means new opportunities for youth across our city to become the next Hank Aaron or even the next Frank Robinson.



# Economic Development Trips Will Spur New Ideas

I've just returned from two important economic development trips that I believe will bring new ideas and new business to the nation's capital. We're in the midst of a \$34 billion development cycle sparking new jobs, economic growth and a sorely needed expansion of our tax base. My trips last week to California and Las Vegas will allow me to further our goal of increasing development across our city.

I visited San Diego's baseball stadium, Petco Park, for ideas on mixed use development we can bring to our Anacostia Waterfront ballpark. We want to offer visitors and residents a great mix of shopping, restaurants, and residential development surrounding a state-of-the-art stadium. San Diego has accomplished some of those goals. I also traveled to San Jose to look at Santana Row—one of the most successful mixed-use and retail centers in the country. Santana Row combines housing with large and small retailers, something we'd like to do at the Old Convention Center site.

Finally, I went to Las Vegas for the International Council of Shopping Centers' (ICSC) Spring Conference—the fifth year I've made the trip. The conference has turned out to be a great benefit for the city. Over the past several years, our efforts have resulted in many store openings or letters of intent from companies including Home Depot; H&M; Harris Teeter, The Container Store; Costco, Bed Bath & Beyond and others. In 2004, more than 70 retailers opened stores or signed leases in DC.

Sales tax dollars collected in the District have been increasing every year since we began ICSC outreach. Between 2002 and 2003, sales tax income jumped by \$102 million. Our proactive courting of businesses at this conference is now the model, and municipal leaders from many other cities now attend to lure retail to their cities: New York City, Baltimore, Oakland and dozens of other cities, along with the state of Maryland, were all represented at the conference this year.

## District Activities



On May 17, Mayor Williams toured the new Visual Warning System established by the Federal Aviation Administration to help warn pilots who fly into the restricted airspace around Washington, DC.



Mayor Williams took part in the Department of Public Works' special collection of household hazardous waste and end-of-life electronics at Rock Creek Park's Carter Barron Amphitheater May 14.

## Community News

- [Mayor Announces Dramatic Increase in DC Government Customer Service Program](#)
- [Mayor Pays Tribute to Reserve Officer Joseph Pozell](#)
- [Mayor's Statement Regarding Base Closure Hearing Schedule](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

<b>5/30</b>	<b>National Memorial Day Parade</b> 9 am Start at Madison Drive and 3rd Street, NW traveling south to Independence Avenue, before turning west and ending at 12th Street, NW
<b>6/13</b>	<b>Homeownership Fair for Residents and City Employees</b> 4 pm – 7 pm 3939 Benning Road, NE
<b>6/30</b>	<b>Summer Kick-Off</b> 10 am – 3 pm Anacostia Park 1800 Anacostia Drive, SE Washington DC

